

Wyoming BLM Land Use Planning & Projects

August 2006

** Bureau Time Sensitive Plan*

1. **1. Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan (CAP) EIS***

The Supplemental Draft EIS for this 570,000-acre CAP for an area, about 30 mi. north of Rock Springs, WY was issued in February 2003. NEPA Status: 90 -day review period ended May 23, 2003. Over 69,000 comments were received. **NOA of FEIS** published in Federal Register July 16, 2004. 30-day protest period ended August 16, 2004. **ROD** issued July 20, 2006. **Contact: Renee Dana, Rock Springs FO (307-352-0227)**. Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/jmhcap

2. **3. Pinedale RMP Revision EIS*** The Pinedale RMP was completed in 1988. It covers 931,000 acres of public surface ownership and 1,185,000 acres of federal mineral estate. Main issues include oil and gas development and big game habitat. **NEPA Status: Scoping** period opened February 3 and continued thru April 7, 2003. **DEIS** release anticipated September 2006. **Contact: Kellie Roadifer, Pinedale FO (307-367-5309)**. Web site is: www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/pinedale

3. **4. Great Divide (Rawlins) RMP Revision EIS***

The Great Divide (Rawlins) RMP was completed in November 1990. The RMP covers 3.5 million acres of public land surface ownership and 4.5 million acres of federal mineral estate. Specific issues addressed in the RMP include oil and gas development, coal leasing, livestock grazing, and wildlife habitat. **NEPA status: DEIS NOA** issued December 17, 2004. 90 day comment period on the RMP DEIS ended March 18, 2005. RMP **FEIS** in preparation. **Contact: John Spehar, Rawlins FO (307-328-4264)**. Web site is www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/rawlins

4. **5. Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project EIS**

This EIS addresses a proposal to drill 2000 CBM wells over 20 years including 1800 to coal formations and up to 200 to other oil and natural gas targets. The project area encompasses about 270,000 acres of federal, state, and private lands in southern Carbon County. The NOI was published in the Federal Register on June 26, 2001. Primary concerns from scoping are water management, stream quality, roads, and impacts to crucial big game winter ranges. To gather information for the EIS, several "pods" of exploratory wells have been analyzed under EAs and implemented through EAs. These are: Sun Dog, Blue Sky, Cow Creek, Brown Cow, Doty Mountain and Red Rim pods. Anadarko has replaced Petroleum Development Corp. **NEPA Status:** Proponents submitted revised proposal Feb. 2005. **DEIS** issued; 60 day comment period completed. **FEIS** in preparation. **Contact: David Simons, Rawlins FO (307-328-4328)**: Website: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/rfodocs/atrimdocs/atrimprojects.htm

5. **11. South Piney Natural Gas EIS**

The EIS will evaluate proposals made by Infinity Oil and Gas of Wyoming for coalbed (CBM) methane development in the Riley Ridge to Fish Creek area, and by Cimerex for Frontier Formation sweet gas in the same general area. Proponents are revising their proposal previously described in NOI. **NEPA Status: NOI** was published in the Federal Register January 29, 2003. Release of **DEIS** anticipated late 2006. **Contact: Caleb Hiner, Pinedale, (307-367-5352)**.

Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/pfodocs/southpiney

6. **13. Pappy Draw Exploratory CBM Project EA.**

EnCana Inc. has acquired the leases formerly held by the Patina Oil & Gas Corp., Denver CO for this project. The original proposal was to drill 5 exploratory coalbed methane (CBM) wells on public lands administered by the BLM, in the Pappy Draw Unit Area, Sweetwater County, WY. The latest proposal from EnCana is to increase the number of exploratory wells from 5 to 20. **NEPA Status:** Project **Scoping** reinitiated May 23, 2005. **EA** is in preparation. **Contact: Chris Krassin, Lander (307-332-8452).** Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/lfodocs/pappydraw

7. **17. Kemmerer Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision**

The Kemmerer Resource Management Plan was completed in 1986 and addressed 1.4 million acres of public land surface ownership and 1.6 million of federal mineral estate. **NEPA Status.** Revision of the RMP initiated by Federal Register publication of **NOI** June 16, 2003. Alternatives have been developed. **DEIS** preparation is in progress. **Contact: Michele Easley, Kemmerer, (307-828-4500).** Web site: www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer

8. **18. Casper(Platte River) RMP Revision**

The Casper Resource Management Plan was completed in 1985. The RMP covers 1.4 million acres of public land surface and 4.7 million acres of federal mineral estate. Main issues include energy and mineral development, vegetation and habitat management, land ownership adjustments, access and transportation; and identification of areas with specific management focus. Revision of the RMP initiated through Federal Register publication of a **NOI June 20, 2003**. Public scoping meetings held November 2003. **NEPA Status: DEIS** released for 90 day public review July 21, 2006. **Contact: Linda Slone, Casper Field Office (307-261-7600)** Web site: www.blm.gov/rmp/casper

9. **22. Seminoe Road Gas Development Project EIS**

This EIS addresses a proposal to drill and operate 1240 CBM wells over a 30-40 year project life span. The project area encompasses about 127,000 acres of federal, state and private lands in Carbon County. **NOI** published March 13, 2003. Preliminary issues are: water management, visual impacts and road development. Previously approved (EA/DR) activities include: an 18 well CBM pilot project and a 16" dia. gas transmission pipeline that would serve the proposed project area in 2002. **NEPA status: DEIS** issued November 25, 2005. 60 day public comment period began December 2, 2005. Public meeting held February 26, 2006. Comment period ended March 3, 2006. **FEIS** is preparation. **Contact: Dave Simons, Rawlins (307-328-4328).** Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/rfodocs/seminoeroad

10. **23. Cheyenne to Miracle Mile Transmission Line Rebuild EA**

Proposed reconstruction and refurbishment of 115 kV transmission line between Cheyenne and Seminoe, WY that would replace wooden pole line supports with steel poles and increase the width of current Right of Way. **NEPA Status: EA** completed and 30 day review provided through July 15, 2006. Lead agency: *Western Area Power Administration*, Rocky Mountain Region. **Contact: Janelle Wrigley, Rawlins F.O. (307-328-4279).**

11. **38. Hanna Draw CBNG Pilot Project EA and Development EIS: The Rawlins**

Field Office has received a proposal from Anadarko E & P Company LP to initiate a pilot project to determine feasibility & appropriate technologies for developing CBNG resources in the Hanna Draw area. The pilot project proposes to drill 16 wells, 2 of which may be horizontally drilled. Anadarko would then make a decision as to whether to pursue the development of a 220 well development. **NEPA Status:** scoping initiated in April 2004; May 2006 Anadarko submitted major change to development. **EA** in progress. **Contact Travis Bargsten, Rawlins, (307- 328-4387).** Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/rfodocs/hannadraw2

12. **47. Buffalo Oil and Gas Leasing EA and possible Buffalo RMP**

Amendment. In response to rulings made by the IBLA and the US Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, the BLM proposes to examine land use allocations for oil and gas leasing made and in the context of new information regarding CBNG (coal bed natural gas).

NEPA Status: NOI to prepare an EA was published in the Federal Register, December 16, 2004. Solicitation for comments and information was completed January 31, 2005.

EA in progress. **Contact: Paul Beels, Project Manager, (307- 684-1168).** Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/bfodocs/rmp-og

13. **48. Buffalo Oil and Gas Leasing EA (retrospective).** In response to rulings made by the IBLA and the US Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, the BLM proposes to examine particular environmental effects of oil and gas lease issuance decisions made since February 2000. **NEPA Status:** NOI to prepare an EA was published in the Federal Register, December 16, 2004. Solicitation for comments and information was completed and information was completed January 31, 2005. **EA/FONSI/DR** issued August 22, 2005. **Contact: Paul Beels, Project Manager, (307- 684-1168).** Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/bfodocs/og-leasing

14. **49. Pit 14 (Coal) Lease By Application EIS.** The BLM has received a coal lease application from the Black Butte Coal Company (BBCC) for federal coal in the decertified Green River/Hamms Fork Coal Production Region. BBCC has applied for a maintenance tract adjacent to their existing Black Butte Mine. The BLM announced its intentions to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register January 7, 2005 that would evaluate the tract configuration, including consideration of adding or subtracting Federal coal to facilitate maximum recovery of the coal resource. **NEPA Status:** Based on evaluation of mineable coal, an alternative was identified (Maximum Economic Recovery alternative) and has been adopted by BBCC as their proposed action. **DEIS** issued March 24, 2006, with a 60 day review & comment period ended May 23, 2006. Public hearing held May 10, 2006. **FEIS** in preparation. **Contact: Joanna Nara-Kloepper , Project Leader, (307- 352-0321).** Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/rsfodocs/pit14

15. **50. Westside Irrigation District Land Conveyance Project EIS.** Under the provisions of Public Law 106-485 the Secretary of the Department of the Interior has been directed to convey all right, title and interest (excluding the mineral interest) in a parcel of public land to the Westside Irrigation District. The parcel of land to be conveyed is approximately 16,500 acres and is located in Big Horn and Washakie Counties, Wyoming approximately 5 miles northwest of Worland, WY. **NEPA Status:** **DEIS** in preparation. **Contact: Don Ogaard, Project Manager, (307- 347-5160).** Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/wfodocs/westside

16. **51. Maysdorf Tract Coal LBA EIS.** The BLM has received a coal lease application

from the Cordero Mining Company for a maintenance tract of coal adjacent to the company's Cordero Rojo Mine in Campbell County, WY. As currently filed the application includes approximately 230.3 million tons of Federal coal in place underlying surface lands that are a mix of public land and private ownership. The tract surface area is approximately 2,219 acres, of which approximately 132 acres are in Federal ownership. **NEPA Status:** NOI published February 1, 2005. **DEIS** issued May 26, 2006; 60 day comment period ended in July 25, 2006. **FEIS** is preparation. **Contact:** Nancy Doelger, Project Manager, (307- 261-7600). Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/maysdorf

17. **52. Eagle Butte Coal LBA EIS.** The BLM received a competitive coal lease application from the Foundation Coal West, Inc. (Foundation) for a maintenance tract of Federal coal adjacent to Foundation's Eagle Butte Mine in Campbell County, WY. As filed the application includes approximately 243.2 million tons of in-place Federal coal. The approximately 1,397 acres of surface estate overlying the Federal coal is privately owned. **NEPA Status:** NOI published in Federal Register April 2005. **DEIS** in preparation. **Contact:** Nancy Doelger, Project Manager, (307-261-7600).
18. **55. Absaroka Ridge 3D Geophysical EA.** Gary Williams Co & PGS Onshore Inc. have filed a notice of intent to conduct geophysical operations with the BLM. The proposed project area is located about 5 miles northwest Kemmerer and would include about 51 square miles. Approximately two-thirds of the area is in federal ownership, with the remaining third in private ownership and State ownership (approx. 3.5 sq.miles). **NEPA Status:** EA/FONSI/DR issued April 27, 2006. **Contact:** James Roberts, Project Leader, (307) 828-4506. Website: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/kfodocs/absarokaridge
This is the last time this project will appear in the Hot Sheet.
19. **60. Continental Divide - Creston EIS.** (formerly known as Creston Blue Gap II) Devon Energy Corporation representing themselves and other lease holders in the area has submitted a proposal to drill and develop up to 1,250 wells on an estimated 1,000 well pads. The proposal is within the same project area analyzed under the 184,000 acres in the Creston Blue Gap EIS 1994. The project area is a mix of federal, private and some state lands, and is located approximately 40 miles southwest of the city of Rawlins, WY. Operators in the Continental Divide/Wamsutter II area have submitted a proposal to drill and develop natural gas resources. The CD/W2 new proposal is adjacent to the CBG2. Projects have been combined due to proximity, similarity of proposed action, and timing. Project area is approx. 1.1 million acres with an estimated 8,950 wells proposed possibly including 500 CBNG wells. **NEPA Status:** NOI for CD-C was published in Federal Register March 3, 2006. **Contact:** Eldon Allison, Project Leader, Rawlins FO (307-328-4291). Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/rfodocs/cd_creston
20. **61. Pinedale Anticline Oil & Gas Exploration and Development Supplemental EIS.** In response to requests for the BLM to consider year-round drilling activities in areas previously subject to timing lease stipulations in big game winter range, the BLM has initiated the preparation of a supplemental EIS (SEIS) for the Pinedale Anticline project area (PAPA) FEIS/ROD 2000. The FEIS is being supplemented in response to operators' requests to drill or complete or both natural gas

wells in big game winter range. **NEPA Status:** The BLM published a **NOI** to prepare a SEIS in the Federal Register October 21, 2005. Public scoping comments were requested on or before November 21, 2005. IDT developing range of alternatives. An air quality modeling protocol is in review by interagency air quality team. **Contact: Matt Anderson, Project Leader, Pinedale FO (307-367-5328).**

21. **63. North Madden 3D Geophysical Project.** Dawson Geophysical has submitted a proposal to conduct geophysical seismic work in the area north of Lysite, WY. They propose to use seismic techniques to collect geological information within an 80 sq. mile area; this would include locating source and receiver locations, and use of geophones and vibroseis trucks. **NEPA Status:** Environmental assessment work completed. **FONSI/DR** issued July 7, 2006. **Contact: Lander FO, (307-332-8400).**
22. **64. Moxa Arch Area Infill Gas Development Project EIS.** The operators in the Moxa Arch gas field have submitted a proposal to infill drill additional natural gas wells that would facilitate gas extraction, maximize the economic recovery of the resource and extend the production life of the field. The operators estimate that approximately 1,860 new gas wells would be drilled within the project area over a 10 year period. The project area under consideration is approximately 476,300 acres of mixed federal, state and private lands in Sweetwater, Uinta and Lincoln Counties. **NEPA Status:** **NOI** published in Federal Register October 7, 2005; scoping meetings held November 2005; comment and response period ended December 2, 2005. **DEIS** in preparation and release anticipated March 2007. **Contact: Michele Easley, Kemmerer, (307-828-4524).** Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/kfodocs/moxa_arch
23. **65. Jones Draw Petroleum, LLC Underground Access Oil Recovery Project EA.** Proposed development of an underground access oil recovery facility in the Fales Creek drainage approximately 50 miles west of Casper in the Rattlesnake Mountains. The project area is 3,875 acres of which an estimated 35 to 40 acres would need to disturb the land surface. **NEPA Status:** Scoping initiated October 1, 2005, comment period ended November 1, 2005. Public meeting held October 18, 2005. **EA** is in preparation. State of Wyoming is a cooperating agency. **Contact: Patricia Karbs, Casper FO (307-261-7612)** Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/jones
24. **66. Tear 3D Geophysical Project EA.** Fairways Offshore Exploration and Green River Energy Resources filed a notice of intent to conduct geophysical operations in an area that is approximately 24 miles north of Evanston, WY and eight miles northeast of Woodruff Narrows Reservoir. The proposed project encompasses approximately 25.31 square miles. Approximately, 17.11 square miles are federally managed surface. Additional portions of the project proposed State and private land are not subject to BLM authorization and will be authorized separately. **NEPA Status:** scoping for **EA** preparation was initiated February 8, 2006. **Contact: James Roberts, Project Leader, Kemmerer FO (307) 828-4506.**
25. **67. Moxa 3D Geophysical EA.** Mowrey Seismic has filed a notice of intent on behalf of Eagle Geophysical and Seitel Data for a geophysical project located on public lands within Lincoln and Sweetwater Counties, of Wyoming. The project is located throughout multiple Sections within Townships 19 and 20 North, Ranges 112 and 113 West, 6th Principal Meridian, and encompasses approximately 130 square miles of checker board ownership including BLM, State, and private lands. The portions of the

project that are proposed to occur on State and private land are not subject to BLM authorization and can be authorized separately. **NEPA Status:** Scoping initiated April 10, 2006 and public comment ended May 15, 2006. **EA** in preparation. **Contact: James Roberts, Project Leader (307-828-4506).** Web site:

www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/kfdocs/3forks

26. **68. Beaver Creek CBNG Pilot Project.** Devon Energy, Inc. proposed a 20 well pilot coalbed natural gas study to be conducted entirely on BLM-administered lands in the northwestern reach of the Beaver Creek Field. The project is located T. 34 N., R. 96 W., Sec. 27, 28, 33 and 34, just south of Riverton, WY and the Wind River Reservation. The project are comprises about 1,760 acres. **NEPA Status:** Scoping initiated June 16, 2006; **EA** in preparation. **Contact: Curtis Bryan, Project Leader, Lander FO (307-332-8415).**
27. **69. Overland Pass Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) Pipeline EIS.** Williams Field Services Company has submitted an application to construct an approximately 750 mile long, 20 inch diameter NGL pipeline originating from existing facilities in Opal, Wyoming and ending at existing NGL processing facilities in Conway, Kansas. Of the 750 miles, approximately 78 miles would not be located near existing pipelines. The proposed pipeline would traverse approximately 143.3 of federally-administered land in Wyoming and Colorado. Approximately 101.7 miles is proposed to be located on lands administered by 3 WY-BLM Field Offices. The proposed location crosses approximately 41.0 miles total of 2 units of the National Forest System: Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, WY and Pawnee National Grasslands, CO. The USDA Forest Service is a cooperating agency in the development of the EIS. **NEPA Status: Notice of Intent** published in Federal Register March 24, 2006. **DEIS** in preparation. **Contact: Tom Hurshman, Project Manager, Montrose, CO (970) 240-5345 or Chuck Valentine, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4200).**
28. **70. Fortification Creek Plan of Development EAs.** The Buffalo Field Office is preparing EAs for each of seven coalbed natural gas (CBNG) plans of development submitted by six different companies. The proposed CBNG development is within the 100,000 acres Fortification Creek area, a mix of federal, state and private surface ownership. A section of State of Wyoming land is located in a Wilderness Study Area and is leased. the BLM is asking for suggestions as to the best location for a road across BLM-administered lands to allow the leaseholder to develop the gas resources associated with the State lease. An approximate total of 158 wells and associated facilities and roads are proposed. **NEPA Status:** Scoping initiated May 23, 2006 with 30 day public comment and information period through June 23, 2006. **Contact: Paul Beels, Project Manager, Buffalo Field Office, (307-684-1168).** Web site: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/bfdocs/fortification_creek
29. **71. Brown Cow II POD EA.** Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and Warren E&P, Inc. have submitted a proposal to conduct exploratory drilling and if viable, develop 12 coalbed natural gas (CBNG) wells. The “pod” area is about 3692 acres, and located within the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development project area currently under environmental review, approximately 7.5 miles north of Baggs, WY. The proposal is entirely located on public lands west of the Brown Cow POD (2004). **NEPA Status: EA** released for 30 day public review and comment July 28 2006. **Contact: Travis Bargsten, Project Manager, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4387).** Website: www.wy.blm.gov/rfo/nepa.htm

Cooperating Agency Projects
Completed or In Progress

A. Northern Great Plains Plan Revision, Thunder Basin National Grassland

Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grasslands, Laramie, WY. National Grasslands in NE WY, located S. of Gillette, and NE of Casper. Web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ngp/>

B. Medicine Bow National Forest Plan Revision, Oil & Gas Leasing

Lead agency: USDA Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests/Thunder Basin National Grasslands, Laramie WY. National Forest located in S.E. WY. Plan revision includes analysis of oil and gas leasing of National Forest System lands and management of Federal mineral estate, including specified lease stipulations. **FEIS and ROD** issued December 29, 2003. Web site: www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/

C. Bridger -Teton National Forest Plan Revision –updated April 2006

Lead agency: USDA Forest Service, Bridger – Teton National Forest, Jackson, WY. National Forest located in N.W. WY. Plan revision includes analysis of oil and gas leasing of National Forest System lands and management of Federal mineral estate, including specified lease stipulations. **NEPA Status:** Plan is being revising under the 2005 Forest Service updated planning regulations therefore it is not subject to the NEPA process. Contact: John Kuzloski, B-TNF, (307-739-5500) Web site: www.fs.fed.us/btnf/oil&gas.htm

D. State-wide Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket Management

Lead agency: USDA- Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). A Memorandum of Understanding between APHIS and the BLM-WY was issued on April 23, 2003 regarding management of the agricultural pests, grasshoppers and Mormon crickets. The MOU provides specific guidance, procedures and practices concerning the management of grasshoppers and Mormon cricket populations on public lands administered by the BLM-WY. Contact: Bruce Shambaugh, APHIS, Wyoming Plant Director, (307-772-2323)

E. Wind River Reservation, Wind River Natural Gas Field Development

Lead Agency: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wind River Agency, Fort Washakie, WY. The BIA has received a proposal by Tom Brown Inc. Sampson Resources and Saba Energy of Texas to drill and develop natural gas wells and associated ancillary facilities. **NEPA Status:** NOA for **FEIS** published in Federal Register December 17, 2004. Record of Decision issued February 8, 2005. Contact: Ray A. Nation, BIA-Wind River Agency, (307) 332-3718)

F. Riverton Dome Coalbed Natural Gas Project.

Lead Agency: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wind River Agency, Fort Washakie, WY. The BIA has received a proposal by Devon Energy to drill and develop natural gas wells and associated ancillary facilities. **NEPA Status:** Public Notice was sent out Sept. 26, 2005; a public meeting was held at St. Stephens Elementary School on Oct. 12, 2005; the public comment period closed on Oct. 28, 2005. Public meeting held Oct. 12, 2005. **EIS** preparation and project on hold indefinitely. Contact: Ray A. Nation or Charlie Dillahunt, BIA-Wind River Agency, (307) 332-3718.

